

Applicants : Chad D. Quist, Francis O'Brien and Niall R. Lynam
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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendment and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-7, 10-32, 34, 36-58, 61-66, 68, 71, 73-82, and 84-87 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 9, 35, 59, 60, 69, 70, 72, and 83 have been cancelled herein. Claims 33 and 67 were previously cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under U.S. 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-8, 15, 17-21, 26, 28-32, 34, 41-48, 51-55, 58, 59, 61, 63-66, and 73-85 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224 to ul Azam et al. (ul Azam) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,831 to Bauer et al. (Bauer).

Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Bauer discloses or suggests the claimed combination. Applicant respectfully submits that, in contradiction to the assertions made in the Office Action, Bauer does not disclose or teach a touch sensitive element as called in the claims. In sharp contrast to Applicants' invention, Bauer teaches the use of conventional switches (see e.g. col. 3, lines 23-26). Applicants respectfully urge that even when combined the references do not teach all the claimed limitations. Nor is there a logical basis to combine the references in a manner to achieve the claimed combination. Notwithstanding, Applicants have canceled Claims 8, 59, and 83 and amended Claims 1 and 53 to clarify Applicants' invention. Claim 15 has been amended to change its dependency in light of the canceled claim. Claim 71 has been

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amended to depend from Claim 53. Claim 84 has been amended to depend from Claim 53.

Claim 1 now calls for:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:
an interior rearview mirror assembly having a mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly being adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and said reflective element having a rearward field of view when said interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;
a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, said user actuatable selector elements comprising at least a first touch sensitive element and a second touch sensitive element;
said first touch sensitive element and said second touch sensitive element being each individually responsive to a change in at least one of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance or electrical resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger;
a first display element and a second display element disposed to the rear of said reflective element of said interior rearview mirror assembly and viewable to an occupant of the vehicle through said reflective element;
said first display element and said second display element respectively generating a first display and a second display;
said first display being generated in response to said first touch sensitive element being actuated by a user and said second display being generated in response to said second touch sensitive element being actuated by a user;
said first display element and said first touch sensitive element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of said first touch sensitive element by a user and said generation of said first display;
said second display element and said second touch sensitive element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of said second touch sensitive element by a user and said generation of said second display; and
wherein said first touch sensitive element and said second touch sensitive element are provided at one of (a) a bezel portion of said mirror casing and (b) at said reflective element.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Bauer discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither ul Azam nor Bauer discloses or suggests a mirror system with an interior rearview mirror assembly, a first touch sensitive

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element, a second touch sensitive element, a first display element, and a second display element, with the display elements disposed to the rear of the reflective element and the first display element displaying a display in response to the first touch sensitive member being actuated by a user and the second display element displaying a second display in response to the second touch sensitive element being actuated by a user wherein the touch sensitive elements are each individually responsive to a change in at least one of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance, or electrical resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge it would not be obvious to modify ul Azam in view of Bauer to meet the claimed combination.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 1, 3-7, 15, 17-21, 26, 65, 66, 68, 73-82, and 86 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer.

With respect to Claim 28, Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Bauer teach or suggest the claimed combination. Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Bauer teach or suggest an interactive vehicular mirror system that includes a plurality of display elements at a mirror reflective element and a plurality of touch sensitive elements at the reflective element associated with the plurality of display elements and, further, in combination with at least one of the display elements comprising a reconfigurable display element whereby the reconfigurable display element may be associated with more than one function. Even when combined, the references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claim 28 to clarify Applicants' invention which now calls for:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:
an interior rearview mirror assembly having a
mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly being
adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and said

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reflective element having a rearward field of view when said interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;

a plurality of display elements at said reflective element, said plurality of display elements comprising a first display element and a second display element;

a respective plurality of touch sensitive elements at said reflective element associated with said plurality of display elements, said plurality of touch sensitive elements comprising a first touch sensitive element and a second touch sensitive element;

said first touch sensitive element and said second touch sensitive element being each individually responsive to a change in at least one of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance or electrical resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger;

said first and second display elements provided at said interior mirror assembly;

said first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent said first display element, and said second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent said second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of said touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by said display elements; and

a first display being generated by said first display element associated with said first touch sensitive element at least when said first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by said second display element associated with said second touch sensitive element at least when said second touch sensitive element is actuated wherein at least one of said display elements comprises a re-configurable display element whereby said re-configurable display element may be associated with more than one function.

Applicants respectfully urge that amended Claim 28 is now further distinguishable over ul Azam and Bauer for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 28 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 29-32, 34, 36-52, and 87, are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer or in combination with any other reference of record.

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With respect to Claim 53, Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Bauer discloses or suggests the claimed combination. Notwithstanding, Claim 53 has been amended to clarify Applicants' invention and now calls for:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:
an interior mirror assembly having a mirror casing
and a reflective element, said interior mirror assembly being
adapted to mount at an interior portion of a vehicle, said reflective
element having a rearward field of view when said interior
rearview mirror assembly is mounted to the vehicle and a plurality
of user actuatable selector elements;
a display element; and
at least one of said selector elements activating said
display element to display at least one display associated with a
function of said at least one selector element and wherein actuation
of another selector element changes the display displayed by said
display element to another display associated with a function of
said another selector element;
said user actuatable selector elements comprising
touch sensitive elements, each of said user actuatable selector
elements being individually responsive to a change in at least one
of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance, or electrical
resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger.

For example, neither ul Azam nor Bauer discloses or suggests an interior mirror assembly with a plurality of user actuatable selector elements and a display element, with at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display associated with a function of the at least one selector element and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display associated with a function of the another selector element and with the selector elements comprising touch sensitive elements, and each user actuatable selector elements being individually being responsive to a change in at least one of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance, or electrical resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 53 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer alone or in combination with any other reference of record. Nor would it be obvious to modify ul Azam to meet the claimed combination.

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Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 53 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 54-58, 61-64, 71, 73-76, 84, and 85, are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 16, 62, 56, and 57, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. in view of Bauer and, further, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,786,772 to Schofield et al.

With respect to Claim 16, Claim 16 depends from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Schofield does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Bauer.

With respect to Claims 56, 57, and 62, Claims 56, 57, and 62 depend from amended Claim 53 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge Schofield does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Bauer.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 16, 62, 56, and 57 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer or Schofield or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 9-14, 22-25, 27, 35-40, 60, and 69-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. in view of Bauer et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,707,570 to Ide et al.

Claims 9, 35, 60, 69, 70, and 72 have been cancelled. Claims 10-14, 22-25, and 27 depend or ultimately depend from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Claim 71 depends from amended Claim 53. Therefore, Claims 10-14, 22-25, 27, and 71 are patentably distinguishable over Azam in view of Bauer for the reasons noted above in reference to Claims 1 and 53. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Ide does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Bauer.

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Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 10-14, 22-25, 27, and 71 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer or Ide or any other reference of record.

With respect to Claims 36-40, Claims 36-40 depend from Claim 28 and, therefore, incorporate the same limitations as Claim 28 and, are therefore patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 28. In addition, Applicants respectfully urge that Ide does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Bauer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 36-40 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer or Ide or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 2 and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Bauer and U.S. Patent No. 5,576,687 to Blank et al.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1; therefore, Claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam and Bauer for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 1. Further, Blank does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Bauer.

With respect to Claims 49 and 50, Claims 49 and 50 depend from Claim 28 and thus incorporate the same limitations as Claim 28. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Blank does not cure the deficiencies of Bauer or ul Azam. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 49 and 50 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Bauer or Blank or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claim 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Bauer and U.S. Patent No. 6,497,368 to Friend.

With respect to Claim 68, Claim 68 depends from amended Claim 1 and, thus, incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully urge that Friend et al. do not cure the deficiencies of ul Azam or Bauer either. Therefore, Applicants

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respectfully urge that Claim 68 is patentably distinguishable over ~~ul Azam~~ ~~in view of Bax~~ ~~or Friend~~ or any other reference of record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely Claims 1-7, 10-32, 34, 36-58, 61-66, 68, 71, 73-82, and 84-87.

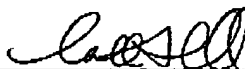
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHAD D. QUIST ET AL.

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Date: February 25, 2005.


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